**South End Is Now Officially a "Space Saver Free Zone Pilot Neighborhood"**

**South End Forum Informed of City's Support for South End's Long-standing Request For Zero Tolerance for Space Savers**

***SE Neighborhood Associations Pledge Information Campaign for Residents***

With support from the Mayor's Office and the Department of Public Works together with our District and At-Large City Councillors, the South End Forum (which represents combined SE neighborhood associations)  **received formal support from the City to make the South End the city's first "pilot neighborhood space saver free zone.**" Members of the Forum have voted repeatedly and unanimously to seek support from the City in launching this initiative for the South End. In a meeting last night with Councilors Baker, Murphy, and Wu  and Senator Chang-Diaz present together with Public Works officials, the Forum received word that the City would do its part to support the neighborhood in routinely eliminating the use of space savers on South End streets.

The SE Forum has agreed to launch a communications campaign which asks all South End residents (and their visitors) to refrain from using parking "space savers" to designate and reserve on-street parking spots that they may (or may not) have shoveled during a previous storm. Neighborhood associations universally view the practice of "saving" a parking spot after it has been shoveled by one individual as a significant contributor to reduced on-street parking inventory--while the "space savers" reserve an otherwise available parking spot--and as an avoidable trigger that has led increasingly over the past few years to unnecessary and avoidable hostility, confrontation, intimidation, and acts of [criminal vandalism](http://boston.cbslocal.com/2013/02/14/cars-vandalized-in-boston-after-drivers-move-parking-space-savers/).

With the welcome support of our partners in the City, members of the South End Forum are asking South End **neighbors to help educate their neighbors about the South End's status as a "space saver free zone" and to also help to remove any "space savers" they find** on the street and place them with the trash for pick up on Tuesdays and Fridays. If a resident prefers, or if a space saver object is too large, heavy, or cumbersome or cannot be easily managed by individual disposal with the trash, **neighbors are asked to call the Mayor's Hotline at 617-635-4500 or use** [**Citizen's Connect**](http://www.cityofboston.gov/doit/apps/citizensconnect.asp) **to report the specific location** of the Space Saver. This will result in Public Worksstaff **removing any space saver reported to them** regardless of time or length of placement. In addition, Public Works will instruct the city's waste management contractor, Capitol Waste Management, **to routinely remove and** **dispose of any object found in the street (other than a vehicle) during their twice a week trash collection on Tuesdays and Fridays.**

Public Works is committed to fully supporting the South End as we begin a period of transition making the South End a "space saver free pilot neighborhood." **While the neighborhood associations launch education and outreach campaigns designed to inform all Southenders of this change, it's reasonable to allow our neighbors some initial time to adjust to the realities of a "space saver free neighborhood" specifically during a declared snow emergency.** A sensible transitional "grace" period in the coming weeks notwithstanding, Public Works strongly encourages South End neighbors to report any space saver found on the street. Because we have only a few weeks of winter remaining this season, Public Works will wait till next Fall to launch their own information and education campaign announcing the South End as a space saver free pilot neighborhood.

The South End Forum believes that this partnership between the South End neighborhoods and Public Works will over time help to inform anyone who wants to use a space saver in the South End that it will in fact be removed either by a cooperative neighbor or active neighborhood association, by the City Public Works Department, or by the city's waste management contractor.  Those who would continue to use space savers in the South End should understand that it is very unlikely that the owner of a vehicle found in a "saved" spot would have removed the space saver.  South End Forum members hope that this pilot program will eliminate what the vast majority of our neighbors consider an unworkable and ill-conceived scourge" that has gained an increasing foothold in the South End in the past few years. Based on the results  of this South End pilot program, Public Works eventually plans to consider requests from other Boston neighborhoods for similar "space saver free" status.

Members of the South End Forum believe that we must all face the sometimes difficult winter season together, as a  neighborhood, and have consideration for one another--particularly during difficult snow events--by helping one another and by working cooperatively to dig out after a storm, by looking out for the welfare and needs of our disabled and elderly neighbors, and by lending a hand whenever and wherever it is needed even without being asked.

Southenders are justifiably proud of our tradition of being able to rely on one another when faced with trials and challenges. We hope that all neighbors will help to ensure that tradition lives on this winter and beyond.

Adopted from a Feb 12, 2014 South End Forum email from Stephen Fox